

British Med Assoc
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WIRRAL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1904.

HOYLAKE:

GILL & CO. LTD., PRINTERS, MARKET STREET.

1905.

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TO THE WIRRAL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1904, as follows:

The population of the Wirral Rural District Population is estimated at 15000.

The Births registered in the District during Births the year number 348, being at the rate of 23·2 per Birth rate 1000 persons living in the District, as compared with 22·7 in 1903, and 26·34, the annual average of the ten years 1894-1903.

The Deaths of persons belonging to the District Deaths number 166. This is at the rate of 11·07 per 1000 Death rate person living in the District, as compared with 10·9 in 1903, almost identical, and 12·8, the average for the decade 1894-1903.

The percentage of Deaths under one year of Infantile age to Births registered is 8·9, as compared with 9·2 Mortality in 1903, and 10·9 the average for the ten years 1894-1903.

The Birth rate is low, and the Death rates are Low rates very low.

The Deaths include 1 from Measles, 3 from Causes of Scarlet Fever, 2 from Whooping Cough, and none Death from any other ordinary Infectious Disease. There was only one death from Diarrhœa. There were 2 from Apendicitis, 1 from Puerperal Septicoemia, 15 from Pulmonary Phthisis, 5 from other Tubercular Diseases, 9 from Cancer 27 from Bronchitis or Pneumonia, 2 from Alcoholism or Cirrhosis of the

Liver, 9 from Premature Birth, 14 from Heart Diseases, 3 from Accident, and 3 from Suicide.

Notification
Act
Infectious
Disease

Under the Notification Act were reported, 1 case of Small Pox, 7 of Diphtheria, 2 of Erysipelas, 69 of Scarlet Fever, 12 of Typhoid Fever. Of these the case of Small Pox, 6 cases of Diphtheria, 39 of Scarlet Fever, and 7 cases of Typhoid Fever were removed to Hospital.

Small Pox

The case of Small Pox was the Assistant Porter on the staff of the Fever Hospital. It is believed that he became infected in connection with some cases that were removed to the Small Pox Hospital, from another district, whilst assisting to burn the patients' bedding, as the date of incubation corresponded.

Re-Vaccina-
tion

Those who had been in contact with him were re-vaccinated, and no further case occurred.

Scarlet Fever

The cases of Scarlet Fever, as in the previous year, have been somewhat numerous. Generally the disease has been mild, but in one very localized outbreak it was of a severe type, and in this place 2 cases proved fatal at the onset.

Utility of
Fever
Hospital

The Fever Hospital has proved of the greatest possible service in providing for the nursing of these severe cases, as well as affording isolation for others.

Hospitals

As Scarlet Fever was prevalent in another part of the Joint Hospital Board District, at the same time, it became necessary to utilize the Greasby Hospital, as well as the newly acquired building at Heswall for Convalescents.

Scarlet Fever

The cases of Scarlet Fever were mostly scattered over the District, and were kept well under control, so that there was no general spread of infection.

Diphtheria

The cases of Diphtheria have been few, and there was no death from this disease.

Typhoid

The cases of Typhoid Fever were not at all numerous, and none were fatal. One was that of

a sailor who had just returned from sea with the disease upon him. Other two cases were members of one household, the first not being removed to hospital for sufficient reason. He went through a long illness, recovered, and just when the house had been disinfected, and the bedding destroyed, the second case broke out; it was removed to hospital. Three other cases occurred in another house, the first not being removed. The house was clean and well kept, and had good accommodation for its size, and the attack was mild; but another child and the mother caught the complaint and were removed to Hospital.

In another curious instance the patient herself had a recurrence of the disease, after an interval of several months, and was removed a second time to Hospital. The rest of the cases of Typhoid Fever were single and at different times in different places, and with no apparent connection. With two exceptions they were removed to Hospital.

There was no spread of infection attributable to milk supply or water, or any common sewerage system. In all the notified cases the houses were visited, removal to Hospital offered, disinfectants supplied where required, warnings against spreading infection given, children in infected houses kept from school, and removal of insanitary conditions attended to.

On the termination of the cases the infected rooms have been disinfected, and where needful infected articles removed to the Disinfecting Stove or Destructor, at the Hospital. In two localities Schools were closed by the Managers, in order to diminish the risk of infection.

To show the small proportion the number of attacks of Infectious Disease bears to the number of those persons more particularly susceptible of infection, it may be noted that at the Census 1901 nearly one-third of the population were under 15 years of age.

Inspections I have visited the District from time to time
 Special for the investigation of cases of Infectious Disease,
 General and general inspections, and have advised on
 Special various matters of detail in connection therewith;
 and also have attended the Government inquiries,
 and given evidence in connection with the various
 Sewerage Schemes Sewerage Schemes which are in progress or pre-
 Schemes paration.

Water Supply The District continues to be well supplied with
 Water from the various waterworks enumerated in
 previous reports.

Sewerage Mr. Priest has been good enough to supply me
 Schemes with the following statement of the progress made
 with the various Sewerage Schemes at present in
 hand :

Engineer's "The Fender Valley Outfall Sewer has now
 Statement been constructed throughout its entire length, and
 will be ready to convey the sewage from the contri-
 butory parishes as soon as the sewers of those
 parishes are finished. Contracts have been let for
 these contributory sewers in the parishes of Arrowe,
 Bidston, Noctorum, Upton and Prenton, and some
 of these are at present being constructed, while all
 are intended to be ready during the present year.

Loan "An application has also been made by the
 Council to the Local Government Board for sanction
 for a loan for a scheme which will connect Moreton
 with the Outfall Sewer.

L. G. B. "The sanction of the Local Government Board
 Sanction having been obtained for the joint scheme for Chil-
 der Thornton, Eastham and Hooton, and also for
 the scheme for Eastham Village, the Council have
 ordered that tenders be invited for these schemes,
 with a view to their construction as quickly as
 possible.

Blocked "Owing to the opposition of the River Autho-
 Scheme rities, the scheme proposed for Gayton has been
 blocked, but the Council is using every effort to

obtain the sanction necessary to enable them to proceed with the work.

“Schemes are at present receiving the consideration of the Council for the parishes of Thornton Hough, and Grange, and an application has been made for a provisional order of the Local Government Board, granting the powers of the Land ^{Land} ^{Acquisition} Clauses Act, for the acquisition of land for the purposes of a scheme for that part of the parish of Spital in which the Union Workhouse is situated. After much local opposition the obstacles in the way of obtaining the sanction of the Local Government Board for the scheme for the parish of Willaston, have now been removed, and the Council is expecting to receive that sanction forthwith, and so be enabled to proceed with the construction of these works.”

The Dibdin Sewage Filter at the Spital Fever ^{Dibdin Filter} Hospital has continued to work satisfactorily, giving no trouble beyond ordinary attention.

Mr. Wallis, your Inspector, makes a complete ^{Inspector's} and satisfactory report. He states that ^{Report}

55 complaints were received during the year.
 1675 houses, premises, &c., inspected.
 253 re-inspections of ditto made.
 84 orders issued for sanitary amendments of houses and premises.
 67 houses, &c., cleansed, repaired or whitewashed
 59 houses disinfected after illness of an infectious character.
 82 house drains repaired, cleansed, &c.
 18 house drains ventilated.
 22 privies or waterclosets repaired,
 4 privies converted into waterclosets.
 3 new provided.
 3 cisterns cleansed or repaired.
 8 townships ashpit removal supervised (Bidston, Eastham, Childer-Thornton, Little Sutton, Heswall, Upton, and Prenton).

Flushing in Five Townships	Flushing of sewers attended to at Little Sutton, Eastham, Childer-Thornton, Heswall and Upton. 18 removals of accumulations of dung, animal or other refuse.
Cowsheds	242 cowsheds and 8 slaughterhouses inspected.
Overcrowding	4 overcrowded dwelling houses remedied, in one case after legal proceedings, and order for abatement was granted.
Factory and Workshops	Mr. Shennan, as Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Act, reports that 12 Workshops are on the register, and have been visited twice during the year. In 5 cases defects were found and reme- died, viz., 1 want of ventilation, 1 want of drainage, 2 unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation, 1 illegal occupation of an underground bakehouse. The last has been discontinued, and a new bakehouse built above ground.
Illegal Bakehouse Occupation New Bakehouses	
127 new Houses	As Building Surveyor, Mr. Shennan reports that plans for 127 houses were submitted for ap- proval during 1904, and 67 houses were completed during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. A. KENYON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chester,

February 15th, 1905.